

April 30, 2007

B-19J

Kenneth G. Day
Forest Supervisor
Hoosier National Forest
811 Constitution Avenue
Bedford, Indiana 47421

Re: Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the German Ridge Restoration Project, Tell City Ranger District, Hoosier National Forest (HNF), Perry County, Indiana - CEQ Number 20070167

Dear Mr. Day:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, we have reviewed the Final Supplement (Supplement) to Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for the German Ridge Restoration Project (Project) on the Hoosier National Forest (Forest).

The U.S. EPA rated the Draft EIS EC-2, Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information, in our November 29, 2006 comment letter. In that letter, we requested additional information concerning the quantity of the various habitat types to be affected/created by proposed management activities. In particular, we recommended early successional and late successional habitat be analyzed at various geographic scales. This information would disclose quantities of habitat types in the short- and long-term following the proposed management activities. Our second recommendation was that the USFS analyze whether total habitat, by type, is trending toward an increasing, stable, or decreasing amount within the Forest boundaries.

Explanations provided in the FSEIS and Appendix to FSEIS – Response to Comments on Draft Supplemental EIS respond to our request regarding the percentage of the HNF in early and late successional forest habitats before and after completion of proposed German Ridge treatments and the overall forest-wide trends for these forest habitat types.

Thank you for responding to our comments on this project. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or via email at kowal.kathleen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/S/

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Science, Ecosystems and Communities

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator, USFS Region 9